1	2		4
13. आंध्र प्रदेश . . .	2,751	3,547	4,445
14. कर्नाटक	1,179	2,049	2,329
15. केरल	159	174	230
16. जम्मू एवं कश्मीर . . .	300	302	257
17. हिमाचल प्रदेश . . .	135	220	190
18. असाम	744	816	830
19. अन्य	409	273	540

*कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (कोल इं० लि.)

Withdrawal of international price Reimbursement scheme

@*275. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to withdraw the International Price Reimbursement Scheme in respect of the small scale industry; and

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard, stating the overall impact of the withdrawal of the scheme on the small scale industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken by the Government to withdraw the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) whether for the small scale or any other sector of the engineering goods industry. The Ministry of Steel is advocating the abolition of the cess which is now financing the IPRS. At the same time, the exists cell being collected is not sufficient to meet the claims under the IPRS. Government is yet to take a final view on the future shape of the IPRS.

@ Previously Starred Question 55, transferred from 25.2.1993.

Money blocked by Iraqi Banks

*276. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than Rs. 1,000 crores have been blocked by Iraqi banks causing hardship to Indians, including overseas Indian contractors engaged in Iraqi projects;

(b) whether Government have made any diplomatice move to get the funds released at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is a fact that over Rs. 1000 crores have been blocked in Iraq representing dues payable by Iraqi companies' banks for project exports executed by Indian contractors in Iraq.

(b) and (c) These above loans were being serviced out of payments received through import of oil from Iraq, under the Deferred Payment Arrangements between Governments of India and Iraq. With the onset of Gulf crisis and imposition of UN trade embargo, import of crude oil could not be effected and no payments have therefore been relised under the Deferred Payment Arrangements, since August, 1990. Government took up the matter with the UN Security Council Committee about the possibility of Iraq providing oil to India in lieu of money owed to Indian construction companies in January, 1991. However, response of UN Security Council Committee had not been favourable. Arrangements for realisation of further payments from Iraq can, therefore, be worked out only after lifting of UN trade embargo on Iraq.

Indo-Myanmar Trade

*277. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake border trade with Myanmar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conference on Standardisation and Quality Upgradation of a Substitute for Timber

*278. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards recently organised a conference on standardisation and quality upgradation of a substitute for timber; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the said conference?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards organised tre National Conference on Standardization and Quality Upgradation of Lignocellulosic Panel Products (LPP) on 29-30 December, 1992 at New Dehi. These products are one of the several possible substitutes for conventional timber.

The purpose of this Conference was to consider standardisation and quality aspects pertaining to application, development and potential use of lignocellulosic panel products as substitute for conventional timber. The term 'lignocellulosic' applies to the products manufactured out of wood or agro based fibrous materials including wood and agro wastes. Examples of lignoceusic panel products are particle boards, fibre boards, block boards and plywood.

The major recommendations of this Conference include the following :—

(i) promotion of the use of lignocellulsic pane products (LPP) as alternative to solid wood for all relevant construction activities;